

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 9, 10, 18-20, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 29-31. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus which is connected to a network and forms an image on the basis of image data acquired from the network, comprising:

input means for inputting information that pertains to image data;

submission means for submitting an image request to the network on the basis of the information input by said input means;

storage means for storing image data sent in response to the image request submitted by said submission means;

parameter setting means for setting color-process parameters

corresponding to a type of image data stored in said storage means;

image processing means for controlling to execute an image process corresponding to ~~a type of the~~ the image data stored in said storage means using the color-process parameters set by said parameter setting means; and

image forming means for forming an image on the basis of the image data processed by said image processing means.

Claim 2 (presented previously): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said submission means submits the image request using a URL.

Claim 3 (presented previously): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a server which stores the image data and is connected to the network, and wherein said submission means submits a URL including an address of the server.

Claim 4 (presented previously): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image processing means changes an image process for the image data on the basis of whether an image corresponding to the image data requires tone reproduction or resolution.

Claim 5 (presented previously): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means includes a control panel provided to said image forming apparatus.

Claim 6 (presented previously): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means includes interface means for inputting via the network a command input at a computer connected to the network.

Claim 7 (presented previously): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image processing means determines a characteristic of the image data on the basis of an extension included in a file name of the image data.

Claim 8 (presented previously): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said image processing means determines a characteristic of the image data on the basis of a reply from said server.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image process includes at least some of a LOG conversion process, undercolor removal process, pulse-width modulation process, gamma conversion process, and binarization process and the color-process parameters specify parameters of those processes.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An image forming method in an image forming apparatus which is connected to a network and forms an image on the basis of image data acquired from the network, said method comprising:

an input step of inputting information that pertains to image data;

a submission step of submitting an image request to the network on the basis of the information input in said input step;

a storage step of storing in a memory image data sent in response to the image request submitted in said submission step;

a parameter setting step of setting color-process parameters corresponding to a type of image data stored in the memory;

an image processing step of controlling to execute an image process corresponding to ~~a type of~~ the image data stored in the memory using the color-process parameters set in said parameter setting step; and

an image forming step of forming an image on the basis of the image data processed in said image processing step.

Claim 11 (presented previously): The method according to claim 10, wherein said submission step includes a step of submitting the image request using a URL.

Claim 12 (presented previously): The method according to claim 10, wherein the image data is stored in a server which is connected to the network, and said submission step includes a step of submitting a URL including an address of the server.

Claim 13 (presented previously): The method according to claim 10, wherein said image processing step includes a step of changing the image process for the image data on the basis of whether an image corresponding to the image data requires tone reproduction or resolution.

Claim 14 (presented previously): The method according to claim 10, wherein in said input step, data is input from a control panel provided to said image forming apparatus.

Claim 15 (presented previously): The method according to claim 10, wherein in said input step, a command input at a computer connected to the network is input via the network.

Claim 16 (presented previously): The method according to claim 10, wherein said image processing step includes a step of determining a characteristic of the image data on the basis of an extension included in a file name of the image data.

Claim 17 (presented previously): The method according to claim 12, wherein said image processing step includes a step of determining a characteristic of the image data on the basis of a reply from the server.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein the image process includes at least some of a LOG conversion process, undercolor removal process, pulse-width modulation process, gamma conversion process, and binarization process and the color-process parameters specify parameters of those processes.

Claim 19 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a data acquisition request for a server on a network;

data acquisition means for accessing individual servers on [[a]] the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted by said input means, and parallelly for acquiring respective data from the individual servers;

image data generation means for generating image formation data on the basis of the data acquired by said data acquisition means;

image forming means for forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated by said image data generation means; and

control means for controlling said image data generation means to generate the image formation data in an order in which said data acquisition means has acquired the respective acquired data from the individual servers, and said image forming means to form

an image ~~in turn from data, which has been acquired by said data acquisition means~~ in an order of the generated image formation data.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein, when data on a server includes location information which indicates locations where sub_data as building components of the data are held, all sub_data designated by the location information included in the data from the server are acquired by said data acquisition means, and generation of the image formation data by said image data generation means and image formation by said image forming means are started from data for which all data including the sub_data have been acquired.

Claim 21 (presented previously): The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

timer means for measuring time required until completion of acquisition of data from the server;

setting means for setting a wait time; and

cancel means for canceling data acquisition from the server when a value measured by said timer means exceeds a predetermined time.

Claim 22 (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a data acquisition request for a server on a network;

data acquisition means for accessing individual servers on ~~[[a]]~~ the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted by said input means, and parallelly for acquiring respective data from the individual servers;

image data generation means for generating image formation data corresponding to each server on the basis of the data acquired from the server by said data acquisition means, wherein said image data generation means generates the image formation data in an order in which said data acquisition means has acquired the respective acquired data from the individual servers;

image forming means for forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated by said image data generation means; and

control means for controlling said image forming means to form an image ~~in turn from image formation data, which has been generated by said image data generation means~~ in an order of generation of the generated image formation data.

Claim 23 (presented previously): The apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising:

timer means for measuring time required until completion of acquisition of data from the server;

setting means for setting a wait time; and

cancel means for canceling data acquisition from the server when a value measured by said timer means exceeds a predetermined time.

Claim 24 (currently amended): An image forming method comprising:

an input step of inputting a data acquisition request for a server on a network;

a data acquisition step of accessing individual servers on ~~[[a]]~~ the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted in said input step, and ~~parallelly~~ acquiring respective data from the individual servers;

an image data generation step of generating image formation data on the basis of the data acquired in said data acquisition step;

an image forming step of forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated in said image data generation step; and

a control step of controlling ~~said image data generation step~~ to generate the image formation data in an order in which the respective acquired data have been acquired from the individual servers in said data acquisition step, and ~~said image forming step~~ to form an image in turn from data, which has been acquired in said data acquisition step in an order of generation of the generated image formation data.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method according to claim 24, wherein, when data on the server includes location information which indicates locations where sub_data as building components of the data are held, all sub_data designated by the location information included in the data from the server are acquired in said data acquisition step, and generation of the image formation data and image formation are started from data for which all data including the sub_data have been acquired.

Claim 26 (presented previously): The method according to claim 24, further comprising:

a time measurement step of measuring time required until completion of acquisition of data from the server;

a setting step of setting a wait time; and

a cancel step of canceling data acquisition from the server when a value measured in said time measurement step exceeds a predetermined time.

Claim 27 (currently amended): An image forming method comprising:

an input step of inputting a data acquisition request for a server on a network;

a data acquisition step of accessing individual servers on ~~[[a]]~~ the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted in said input step, and ~~parallelly~~ of acquiring respective data from the individual servers;

an image data generation step of generating image formation data corresponding to each server on the basis of the data acquired from the server in said data acquisition step, wherein the image formation data is generated in an order in which the respective acquired data are acquired from the individual servers in said data acquisition step;

an image forming step of forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated in said image data generation step; and

a control step of controlling ~~said image forming step~~ to form an image in turn from image formation data, ~~which has been generated in said image data generation step~~ in an order of generation of generated image formation data.

Claim 28 (presented previously): The method according to claim 27, further comprising:

- a time measurement step of measuring time required until completion of acquisition of data from the server;
- a setting step of setting a wait time; and
- a cancel step of canceling data acquisition from the server when a value measured in said time measurement step exceeds a predetermined time.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A storage medium which stores a program for implementing an image forming method in an image forming apparatus which is connected to a network and forms an image on the basis of image data acquired from the network, comprising:

- an input step module for inputting information that pertains to image data;
- a submission module for submitting an image request to the network on the basis of the information input in said input step module;
- a storage step module of storing in a memory image data sent in response to the image request submitted in said submission step module;
- a parameter setting step module of setting color-process parameters corresponding to a type of image data stored in the memory

an image processing step module of controlling to execute an image process corresponding to ~~a type of~~ the image data stored in the memory using the color-process parameters set by said parameter setting step module; and

an image forming step module of forming an image on the basis of the image data processed in said image processing step module.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A storage medium which stores a program for implementing an image forming method comprising:

an input step module of inputting a data acquisition requests for a server on a network;

a data acquisition step module of accessing individual servers on ~~[[a]]~~ the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted in said input step, and parallelly of acquiring respective data from the individual servers;

an image data generation step module of generating image formation data on the basis of the data acquired in said data acquisition step module;

an image forming step module of forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated in said image data generation step module; and

a control step module of controlling ~~said image data generation step module~~ to generate the image formation data in an order in which the respective acquired data have been acquired from the individual servers in said data acquisition step, and said image forming step module to form an image in turn from data, which has been acquired in said data acquisition step module in an order of generation of the generated image formation data.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A storage medium which stores a program for implementing an image forming method, comprising:

an image step module of inputting a data acquisition request for a server on a network;

a data acquisition step module of accessing individual servers on ~~[[a]]~~ the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted in said input step, and parallelly of acquiring respective data from the individual servers;

an image data generation step module of generating image formation data corresponding to each server on the basis of the data acquired from the server in said data acquisition step module, wherein the image formation data is generated in an order in which the respective acquired data are acquired from the individual servers in said data acquisition step;

an image forming step module of forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated in said image data generation step module; and

a control step module of controlling ~~said image forming step module~~ to form an image ~~in turn from image formation data, which has been generated in said image data generation step module~~ in an order of generation of the generated image formation data.